

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1.     **(Original)** An image forming apparatus comprising:
  - a main unit having an image forming section configured to form an image on a paper sheet;
  - an image reading section located just above the main unit, and configured to read a document image;
  - an ejection space defined between a bottom of the image reading section and the image forming section, the ejection space having an opening at a front of the main unit;
  - an ejection tray cover defining a bottom of the ejection space and configured to receive a paper sheet ejected from the image forming section, the ejection tray cover covering the image forming section;
  - a recess formed in a front portion of the ejection tray cover; and
  - a front cover configured to open and close a front of the main unit, the front cover having an upper edge, the upper edge and the recess cooperating with each other to provide a handle section when the upper edge and the recess oppose each other.
  
2.     **(Original)** The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the recess opposes a substantially middle portion of the front cover in a width direction thereof.

3. **(Original)** The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein; the front cover has a first holder at an end portion and a second holder at another end portion, the first and second holders forming holding means for holding the front cover on the main unit; and

the recess is located between the first and second holders of the front cover.

4. **(Currently amended)** The image forming apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein a vertical distance between an upper edge of the front cover and a bottom of the recess is not less than 0.3 mm.

5. **(New)** The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a vertical distance between an upper edge of the front cover and a bottom of the recess is not less than 0.3 mm.

6. **(New)** The image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a vertical distance between an upper edge of the front cover and a bottom of the recess is not less than 0.3 mm.